

EXT. SMALL SUBURBAN SCHOOL - DAY

A tan, brick, slightly dilapidated school. Average Midwestern America.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

DONNY GILLESPIE, a ten-year-old 5th grader, slouches at his desk. His teacher, MRS. DUBCHEK, gives a presentation.

MRS. DUBCHEK

As you know, we're working again this year with Frankenmueth Fine Foods for our annual school-wide fundraiser. They offer a tempting array of excellent sausages, cheeses, theme dessert tins, and other popular delicacies. AND, what you don't yet know, is that Principal Wellson is offering a special prize to the school's top seller...

Mrs. Dubchek puts a transparency on the overhead projector.

Donny snaps upright.

MRS. DUBCHEK (CONT'D)

...a brand new WII GAMING SYSTEM!

Donny stares desirously at the beautiful prize.

Donny's best friend, BUCKLY, a pudgy kid sitting next to him notices his reaction.

BUCKLY

Donny, you'll never win. BETSY T. can't be beat.

MRS. DUBCHEK

Hopefully this will motivate some of you to give last year's winner, BETSY T., a run for her money.

Mrs. Dubchek smiles at Betsy who smiles back like a pet.

Donny glares.

BUCKLY

She win's every year. Her father's the boss at a giant law firm.

(MORE)

BUCKLY (CONT'D)

He just puts the catalog in the break room and half the company's bought something before lunch.

A skinny kid with buck teeth and glasses, SPENCER, leans over Donny's shoulder.

SPENCER

I heard she has seven grandmas.

BUCKLY

Shut up, Spencer.

DONNY

I have to win. You know my parents are never going to buy it for me. This is my only chance.

Donny pours over the catalog and forms in front of him.

INT. QUAIN T HOME - EVENING

A man and woman in their late thirties, DONNY'S PARENTS, sit at the kitchen table.

DAD

Carol, our house isn't big enough for your father to move in.

Someone enters the side door.

MOM

I'm not asking you to clear out your office--

DONNY

(Interrupting)

Mom! What's Granny's number?

MOM

Hello Donny. Just a minute. (To Dad) I'm just asking you to think about--

DONNY

(Interrupting)

Mom, we started our fundraiser at school and I need to call Granny.

MOM

Just a minute Donny!

DONNY

But Mom!

MOM

Enough! I said just a minute. You never listen!

INT. DONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Donny's in bed with a flashlight looking at a magazine. He turns the centerfold page sideways and stares at it curiously, covetously. He's looking at...(REVEAL) a picture of a NINTENDO WII GAMING SYSTEM.

MOM

(From outside in the hall)
Lights out Donny!

Donny jumps.

MOM (CONT'D)

Don't forget to say your prayers.

He puts down the magazine and flashlight, pulls up the covers, closes his eyes, and begins praying to himself.

DONNY

(V.O.)

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day. Please, please, please let me win the Wii. I'll do anything for it, anything, and I deserve it more than Betsy T. Is it possible to have seven grandmas? She must go to the museum every weekend if I could be any dinosaur I'd be a stegosaurus no a triceratops or... SNUGGHHUH.

He's out.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Donny sits down next to Buckly

DONNY

Hey, Buckly guess who sold some peanut brittle last night? Boom. Already made a sale. Told you I got this.

Just then, Betsy T. and her friend walk by.

BETSY T.

I only got 15 orders last night, which is, like, three hundred dollars, but that's only from my Mom's side, my Dad hasn't even taken it to work yet.

MRS. DUBCHEK

Quiet everyone. Please pull out your history books and turn to page 274.

BUCKLY

(to Donny)

I'm telling you, if you want to win this, you gotta do like the Italians. Put a horse head in someone's bed and they'll buy the entire catalogue.

Buckly leans back like he's asleep. He feels around under his desk as he starts to wake up. He holds his hand in front of his face and tiredly opens his eyes. Shock. Horror. He writhes in his seat throwing off imaginary covers.

BUCKLY (CONT'D)

Aaaahhh! Ahh! Ahh! Aaaaahhhhhh!
AAAAAHHHHHAAAHHHAAAHHHH!!!!

MRS. DUBCHEK

Buckly! What on earth! Buckly! Stop that this instant!

Donny bites his lip trying not to laugh. Buckly opens his history book like nothing happened.

INT. DONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Donny paces back and forth in his pajamas.

DONNY

God, I prayed that I would win, and so far, you're not living up to your end of the deal. I need to know that you're on my side. Please God, just, give me a sign. Something to let me know I'll win. God, please. I need to win. Give me a sign. Alright, if the phone rings in the next three seconds...

Three seconds go by.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 Okay, if the phone rings in the
 next ten seconds...

Ten seconds go by.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 Ugh! God please!

Donny flails his arms knocking over a pile of papers. A Halloween brochure lands face up. Donny stoops down and picks it up. It reads: "THE DEVIL'S HAUNTED MANSION: WHERE ALL YOUR WILDEST DREAMS COME TRUE!"

Hmmm. Donny sits at the archaic desktop computer in his room. He types in the search engine: "Summoning the Devil".

DONNY (CONT'D)
 (reading the screen)
 To summon the Devil, light a red
 candle and repeat the following.

His eyes read the screen.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 Warning: Satan is known to only
 fulfill your request in exchange
 for something, preferably your
 soul.

Donny's eyes wander to the picture of the Wii now pinned above his bed.

OFF DONNY

Donny strikes a match, lights a red candle, and stares into the living flame.

He closes his eyes, lifts his head, opens his arms.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 Sanctus Lucifus. Dona Nobis
 Babalonious. Viam inveniam aut
 faciam. Audiatur et altera pars!

A gust of wind slams against the window. The candle flickers out.

The phone rings.

Donny jumps in fright.

INT. DONNY'S HOME, BATHROOM - DAY

Donny tucks his shirt in and straightens his slick, parted hair. He's never looked so sharp.

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE - DAY

Donny knocks confidently. A well-dressed woman answers.

DONNY

Good afternoon Ma'am. My name is Donald, I'm selling fine food items for my school fundraiser.

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN

I already bought from my nieces.

DONNY

I understand. Sorry to have wasted your time, Miss...

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN

Mrs.... Mrs. Wellington.

DONNY

Have a wonderful day.

Without missing a beat, Donny strides next door and knocks.

An equally well-dressed woman answers.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Good afternoon Ma'am. I'm Donald and I'm selling fine food items.

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN 2

I'm not interested.

DONNY

Alright. That's fine. I guess Mrs. Wellington was right. Have a nice--

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN 2

Mrs. Wellington? Right about what?

DONNY

Well, I don't want to upset you ma'am. So I'll just--

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN 2

No, wait just a minute, what'd she say?

DONNY

Well she told me she would buy extra because you're too cheap to buy anything.

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN 2

Ugh! Of all the nerve!

DONNY

Her words not mine. I can see that I've upset you. I'll be going then.

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN 2

Wait. How much did she buy?

DONNY

Well, there was the European country bread, the triple chocolate almonds...oh, and the trio of Mediterranean vinegars.

Mrs. Wellington glances out the window towards them. The woman notices.

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN 2

Let me see that catalogue.

Donny smiles.

DONNY

Of course.

EXT. MISC. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE - DAY

An elderly man pulls a bag of groceries from his trunk. The bag rips and the contents spill onto the driveway.

Donny appears seemingly out of nowhere, catalogue in hand.

DONNY

Let me get these for you, sir.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

During silent work time, Donny approaches Mrs. Dubcek's desk.

DONNY

Mrs. Dubcek, could I please get another order form, I've filled up this one already.

MRS. DUBCHEK

Wow, this is impressive Donny. You know what this means?

Mrs. Dubchek goes to the side of the blackboard where each student's name is Velcro'd in a vertical column. A picture of the Wii is at the top.

Mrs. Dubchek removes Donny's name from the middle and then removes Betsy's name from the top.

Donny swells with pride and excitement.

But, Mrs. Dubchek moves Betsy's name up on the wall and puts Donny's name *beneath* her.

Donny returns to his seat.

DONNY

(to himself)

That's it. It's on. Betsy T. must be taken down.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

INT. DONNY'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Donny sits with the phone and his mother's address book.

DONNY

Aunt Debbie, how are you? It's your favorite nephew Donny.

INT./EXT. BALLET STUDIO - DAY

In a room full of mirrors and pink tutu's Betsy T. waves goodbye, exits, and climbs in her mom's waiting car.

INT./EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE - DAY

Donny stands at an open front door with a middle-aged man.

DONNY

Could I trouble you for a glass of water? I've been out here all day.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN

Sure. Just a moment.

The man comes back with a glass of water. He pauses at the entrance to his living room and stares in, puzzled.

There sits Donny at home on the couch with his catalog spread out on the coffee table.

DONNY

Thank you very much, sir.

Donny pats the seat next to him.

INT. VEHICLE - DAY

Betsy T. stares blankly out the passenger window. Her mother messes with the radio dial and it falls off under the seat. She reaches down trying to feel for it. Cars whiz by.

INT. MISC. HOUSE - NIGHT

A middle-aged woman unlocks the door to her home and enters in the dark. She sets down her bag and turns on the light. She GASPS in fright.

Sitting in an easy chair in a dark corner of the den is Donny.

DONNY

Hello Mrs. Ferguson. I'm here to talk to you about the lack of choice cold cuts and gourmet aged cheeses in your refrigerator. I'm sure we can come to a solution we both find... palatable.

Donny flashes a sinister smile.

INT. VEHICLE - EVENING

Betsy T.'s mom gets a finger on the knob. The light up ahead turns red. She ducks down to grab it without slowing down.

An SUV barrels straight toward's the passenger side. Betsy T. screams. CRASH!

END MONTAGE

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

School's out. Donny and Buckly walk together out of the building.

Donny's hugging a brand new Wii to his chest! He can't stop smiling.

DONNY

I can't believe I did it. You want to come over and play?

BUCKLY

I can't right now, but maybe later.

DONNY

I wish Betsy T. were here today. I would've loved to have seen the look on her face when she found out she didn't win.

BUCKLY

You didn't hear?

DONNY

What?

BUCKLY

Dude. She got in a killer car accident. She broke her leg, ribs, and cheekbone and had tons of glass removed from her face. The doctor's say she's never going to look the same.

Donny stops in his tracks. Buckly turns.

BUCKLY (CONT'D)

Dude, did you forget something?

DONNY

She's never going to look the same?

BUCKLY

Yeah. Now it's open season for hottest girl in school. Donny, what's wrong?

DONNY

Wrong? Nothing.

BUCKLY

Listen I gotta run. Don't break your new Wii before I get a chance to play.

Buckly walks away just as Donny passes a group of three grizzly looking TEENAGERS smoking cigarettes.

Donny holds the Wii tighter and quickens his pace.

The teenagers follow Donny.

Donny turns down an ally and runs. Two teenagers follow.

Donny steals a look back and realizes they aren't running after him. He slows down, only to SLAM into the third teenager who snuck around.

The other two close in. TEENAGER #3 holds Donny by the back of the neck.

TEENAGER #3

Well, well, well, boys look what we have here?

DONNY

COPS!

Donny points, and the startled teenagers look up. Donny sprints across the street for the gas station.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Donny dashes in and locks himself in the bathroom.

The teenagers casually enter behind him.

Donny's chest heaves inside the dirty, smelly room.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

TEENAGER #3

Excuse me, I really have to go.

He turns and smiles at his buddies who pretend to shop.

Donny tears up.

DONNY

God. I'm sorry. Please help me. I didn't mean to hurt Betsy. I don't want to be a bad person. Please.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

TEENAGER #3

C'mon, I can't hold it much longer.

DONNY

God, I'm sorry for making a deal with the Devil. Please forgive me. Just get me out of this situation. I'll do whatever you want. Anything.

Just then, the sun shines through the small bathroom window illuminating the Wii.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 Alright God. Okay.

A gust of wind blows the hanging window open.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Donny lands on the pavement behind the gas station. The window swings on its hinges. Donny runs off.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Donny rings the doorbell and ditches. He watches from behind a hedge as a woman opens the door, looks around confused, then notices a box with a note on the stoop.

BETSY T.'S MOM picks up the Wii. The handwriting on the envelope reads: "Betsy T."

BETSY T.'S MOM
 (Entering the house)
 Elizabeth, were you expecting something?

INT. DONNY'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Donny enter's the side door empty handed, yet at peace.

DAD
 Donald Gillespie!

A visibly upset man stands across from his father.

DAD (CONT'D)
 Did you tell this man's wife you would cut off her cat's head and put it in her bed while she's sleeping if she didn't join the bacon of the month club?! You're grounded for a month!

Donny opens his mouth to defend himself then stops, frowns.

THE END